



# Forensic Drug Testing at The Massachusetts Department of Public Health

---

## Impacts of the Melendez-Diaz Decision



## Strategies for Managing Demands

---

- Collaborative approach
- Changes in sample submission & testing policies
- Redistribution of some testing
- Thoughtful scheduling of drug cases
- Training

DPH, DPS, DAs, Courts and Defense bar

No small quantity marijuana, no PI buys, single point of contact for expedited analyses, keeping cases together

DPS assumed Middlesex County 10/1/09 . Possibly additional assistance in the future

Area needs attention! Justice Mulligan – Suffolk County draft plan

Chemists (re-training?), ADAs, courts



## Initial Requests for Oral Testimony

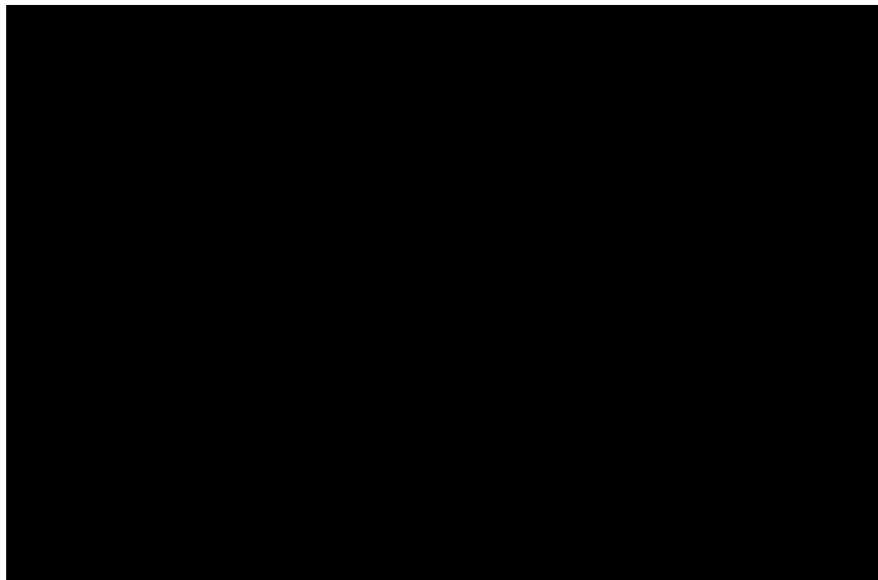
- June 25 – September 11, 2009
- 291 subpoena received, 491 chemists ~1.7 chemists/case
- Appeared at 69 trials
- 258 hours out of laboratory
- Equivalent to 6.8 weeks

\* To date 413 subpoena received



## Increasing Demand for Testimony

---





## Significant Preparation Time

---

- Adequate notice
- Keep laboratory apprised of the case status



## Resultant Decline in Analytical Productivity





## Contact Information

---

Elisabeth O'Brien  
Supervisor, Drug Laboratory Evidence Office  
[elisabeth.o'brien@state.ma.us](mailto:elisabeth.o'brien@state.ma.us)  
617.983.6622

Julianne Nassif  
Director, Division of Analytical Chemistry  
[julianne.nassif@state.ma.us](mailto:julianne.nassif@state.ma.us)  
617.983.6651